

The Rules

- The contest begins in September and ends November 18, 2011.
- A maximum of 10 entries from each school will be accepted for judging.
- Entries sent to Farm Bureau Insurance must be submitted by the school, not by the individual contestants, and must arrive at the company's home office in Lansing no later than November 21, 2011.
- The contest is open to any eighth grade student in Michigan.
- The essay must be based on the topic "My Personal Michigan Hero."
- Your essay must be typed and double spaced.
- Be sure to make a copy of your essay for yourself, because Farm Bureau Insurance cannot return or make copies of submitted essays.
- Your name, home address, school, and school address must appear at the top of each page of the essay.
- The Parental Permission Card must be filled out and stapled to the back of the essay.
- The essay must be your own work and may be up to 500 words long.
- The essays are judged on originality, creativity, quality of writing, how well the information is conveyed, and accuracy. It is also very important to stay within the parameters of the theme.

Good Luck and Have Fun Writing!

Note: School essays must be submitted at one time - no straggler essays will be accepted.



America & Me
ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSORED BY:



MICHIGAN'S INSURANCE COMPANY

43rd Annual Essay Contest

**For Michigan
8th Grade Students**

**RULES
BROCHURE**

America & Me
ESSAY CONTEST



Contest runs from September through November 18, 2011

Honor Your Personal Michigan Hero...

ENTER THE AMERICA & ME ESSAY CONTEST

You'll feel like a hero if you're one of the top ten winners of the 2011-2012 America & Me contest...

- You could be one of ten students winning \$1,000.
- You'll be cheered by thousands of fans as you're honored in a baseball stadium during the pre-game ceremonies.
- You'll enjoy a banquet cruise aboard a riverboat on the Grand River.
- And your parents and teacher will experience it all with you!
- Accept the challenge and enter your essay!

Topic: "My Personal Michigan Hero"

Think about the people in your life... the people who help you, love you, teach you, encourage you, guide you, and inspire you.

You are surrounded by Michigan people who are making a big difference in your life. Which one of them is a hero to you?

We invite you to write a 500-word essay about your personal Michigan hero — someone who lives in our state and who has encouraged you, taught you important lessons, and helped you pursue your dreams. You could write about a family member, teacher, coach, neighbor, friend, local business person, or anyone in your community.

Write about the qualities that make this person a hero to you. Write about why this person is so special in your life. Your essay will be very meaningful to your hero, because it will be a lasting tribute to him or her.

So start thinking about your personal Michigan hero. Just think what an honor this will be for the person you choose. We can't wait to read your essay.



Last year's statewide winners hanging out in front of the Michigan Princess Riverboat.

The Awards... You could win \$1,000!

Awards are presented on the local and statewide levels. The top three essayists from each school will receive honor certificates. *A special gift will also be awarded to each school's first place essayist.*

Each participating school receives a plaque engraved with the name of the school's first-place winner. The plaque remains on permanent display in the school so that the names of the school's future winners can be added.

The first-place essay from each school will be entered into the statewide competition from which the top ten essays in the state will be chosen. The final ranking of the top ten winners will be determined by a panel of VIP judges.

Each of the top ten statewide winners will receive a cash award of \$1,000. All ten essayists will also receive a plaque and medallion.

In addition, the top ten winners will be brought to Lansing in May 2012 to visit with Michigan's top government leaders at the State Capitol and to attend an awards banquet aboard the Michigan Princess Riverboat. The top ten will also be featured guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game.

A teacher and two other adults may accompany each winner.



Parental Permission Card

This card, or a copy, must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian of the student whose name appears on this card (the "Student"), and must be stapled to the essay in order to qualify the Student for the contest.

I grant full permission to the Student to participate in the America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. I understand and agree that all entries become the property of Farm Bureau Insurance and will not be returned. I also grant full permission to Farm Bureau Insurance to use the Student's name, photograph, and essay (or a portion thereof) and the name and city of the Student's school in booklets and other written materials and on the Farm Bureau Insurance Web site. Furthermore, I certify that to the best of my knowledge this is the Student's own work.

Please print the following information legibly.

Student's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex M/F _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Full School Name _____

School Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School Phone Number _____

County _____

Sponsoring Teacher's Full Name _____

Farm Bureau Insurance Agent Sponsor's Full Name _____

Signature of parent or guardian _____